

# Election Lessons

## The Election

In this lesson, students will participate in a mock election. They will be asked to vote for one of four candidates without knowing anything about them (e.g. background, qualifications, positions etc.). After the election, students will learn who the candidates were. Most will be very surprised at the outcome. [adaptable elementary-secondary]

## The Real Election

Students will understand that there are two steps involved in the process of electing the President of the United States - the popular vote election decides who the electors will be, then the electors in the electoral college decide who the President will be. The second, electoral college election is held to try to make sure that those who voted in the popular election did not make a bad choice. [adaptable elementary-secondary]

## Analyzing Election Campaign Ad Strategies

In this lesson students learn strategies used by candidates in their television campaign ads then apply learning to analyze current or past ads created for modern presidential elections. Students then create their own ads using strategies deployed by experts. [middle-high school]

## Grace Gets “Stewed” and Runs

In this lesson, students will read the book *Grace for President* to learn about elections, government, and some of the rights and responsibilities of those running for and holding office. Students will organize and run a campaign for two candidates in the book *Grace for President* then vote in a mock election. [elementary]

## House Bill 180

This lesson features a mock election that pits two candidates with very different positions on a debate over homework. Students cast their votes fully aware of the positions of both candidates but learn why citizens in a democratic society should remain informed *after* an election when the winner pulls a 180° turnaround following the election. [middle-high school]

## The House Decides (1824)

In this lesson students analyze election data to learn how the electoral process might work in unusual elections. Unbeknownst to students, the election data is drawn from the presidential election of 1824 during which Amendment XII required that the election take place in the House of Representatives. Allegedly, a “corrupt bargain” led to the election of a candidate who received neither a majority nor plurality of popular or electoral votes. Students investigate the question, *did a corrupt bargain actually occur?* Then, mount campaigns for rivals in the election of 1828. [middle-high school]